

Theater Under Stars

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Langley High Aims Higher

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Planning Mission To Mars

PEOPLE, PAGE 6

Titteta (Kira Feldmesser of Oakton) and Linetta (Nikki Piorkowski of Great Falls) dream of their chances to become queen in the 'Traveling Players' performance last Friday at Madeira School.



inside

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Civil War Encampment at Sully Historic

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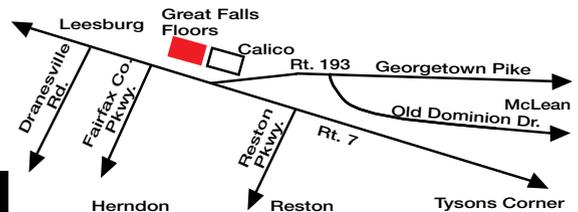
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Matthew J. Ragone,
Principal,
Langley High
School

BACK-TO-
SCHOOL Q&A

Langley High Aims Higher

‘One of the best years’ poses challenge, inspiration.

Matthew J. Ragone, who became Langley High School principal in May this year, replacing the retiring Bill Clendaniel, emphasizes maintaining the school’s academic excellence as the greatest challenge in the new school year.

Q: What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?

A: Langley High School, in terms of academic achievements, had one of the best years in its history last year (07-08). How we will top that success will be the single most important challenge of the coming school year.

Q: Any new academic programs, initiatives?

A: We do not have any new programs or initiatives in the coming year. It is very important for the new principal to see the current system in action before working with the faculty to examine what works, what needs refining, and what, if any, programs need to be dumped or established.

Q: Changes in personnel?

A: We have a new Assistant Principal, Jessica Statz from Lee High School. She replaces Rob Sanders who was promoted to be the South County Associate Principal. Most other changes, due to retirements or people moving, have been typical of past years. A few new faculty for next year.

Q: Number of students?

A: We will have about 2,100 students for the 08-09 school year. Though, that number changes daily during summer registrations. A little higher than last year, but not by much.

Q: Important days in the fall school calendar?

A: Homecoming is the week of Oct. 14-18. The football game vs. South Lakes is on Oct. 17.

Keeping Rail on Track

Rail to Dulles advocates redouble efforts to ensure federal funding.

BY MIRZA KURSPAHC
THE CONNECTION

With the construction contract renegotiated at the end of July, Rail to Dulles advocates are preparing to submit the paperwork requesting full funding of \$900 million from the federal government for the extension’s completion. They are calling on continued advocacy from area’s political and business leaders, to ensure the federal funds are granted.

“Nothing in our democracy is accomplished without a strategic vision that is able to capture broad support,” said Norman Mineta, a former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, addressing area leaders and rail advocates at a luncheon that focused on the future of the Dulles Corridor on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

James Bennett, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), said the renegotiated contract



PHOTO BY MIRZA KURSPAHC/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) discusses the future of Dulles Corridor at Wednesday’s luncheon dedicated to the topic.

with Dulles Transit Partners, coupled with the federal approval for the project to move into final design, were all positive indicators. The construction of the extension is now planned to start next March. However,

Bennett said, it is not a certainty that the federal government will release all of the \$900 million for the project. Bennett called for continued advocacy to get the money.

“We haven’t secured it yet,” said Leo Schefer, president of the Washington Airports Task Force. “And it is fairly fragile,” he said. “If we have people who want to rock the boat, we’ll have to work even harder.”

THE RENEGOTIATED contract with Dulles Transit Partners schedules the construction of Phase I, to Wiehle Avenue in Reston, from March 2009 to July 2013 at the cost of \$1.6 billion. The new contract, said Bennett, provides certainty for the schedule of the project’s construction, as well as its cost.

Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), an outspoken critic of the initial contract with Dulles Transit Partners, said he has not had a chance to review the renegotiated contract. However, he said, fundamental concerns exist, including the lack of bidding on the project and some open-ended issues, including costs for sub-contracting. “I suspect I will continue to have these concerns,” said Foust. He said the contract seems to be “the best deal we

SEE RAIL, PAGE 13

On the Trail of an Alternative

After Great Falls prompt, supervisors to consider requiring not just sidewalks but trails.

By MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Eleanor Weck, chair of the Trailblazers, and Eleanor Anderson, co-chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association, realized recently that a few of the Comprehensive Plan amendments proposed by Great Falls residents might be preempted by the county's Public Facilities Manual.

In the spring, as part of the North County Area Plan Review, Great Falls submitted one amendment for each of its three planning areas asking that walkways have permeable surfaces unless they are in commercial areas or near schools, said Weck. "They don't want sidewalks. They want it like they live in a semi-rural atmosphere." She also pointed out that the Planning Commission recommended in February that the Board of Supervisors adopt stream protection measures that include minimizing impervious cover in cul-de-sacs. And the Countywide Trails Plan specifies that stone dust or natural surface be used for any walkway in Great Falls that appears on the trails plan.

HOWEVER, the Public Facilities Manual calls for concrete sidewalks in any development with R-1 zoning – meaning one house per acre – except for walkways that appear on the trails plan. This means developers can only be required to build concrete sidewalks around any neighborhoods they build. A new county requirement for sidewalks on both sides of the road in R-1 neighborhoods would add to the amount of concrete.

"We have a lot of R-1 zoning in Great Falls," said Weck.

Weck and Anderson wrote a letter to Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), who brought the matter before the Board of Supervisors on Aug. 4. The board voted unanimously to direct staff to look into the possibility of requiring trails, and Foust said he hoped for a staff response in two or three months.

He said he was aware that sidewalk requirements had already presented problems. "I know some sidewalks have been constructed that we wish were stone dust trails," said Foust.

"We're definitely not against these sidewalks. We just want them to be made of stone dust," said Weck.

She said the pros and cons of the two surfaces had been discussed at a well-attended meeting about the plan amendments in the spring, adding, "I think that issue was settled." She said parents preferred a softer



A stone dust trail runs along Georgetown Pike in front of the library, the Grange and the old schoolhouse. Most of the trail is more difficult to spot.

"I know some sidewalks have been constructed that we wish were stone dust trails."

— Supervisor John Foust
(D-Dranesville)

surface for their children to bike on, while joggers also prefer a softer trail, and horses can't use concrete paths.

MOREOVER, she said, permeable trails are better for the environment. Most stream pollution comes from runoff that could have been filtered by the earth, said Weck. "So the more of it that can be absorbed, the better."

She said one problem some people have with stone dust trails is that grass eventually grows through them and can render them virtually invisible. To most, she said, this is more of an asset. "Basically, people don't want to see them, they just want to use them."

Another possible complication is that the

"Basically, people don't want to see them, they just want to use them."

— Eleanor Weck,
chair, Trailblazers

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) does not build or maintain stone dust trails.

"We just allow them on our right-of-way," said VDOT spokesman Mike Salmon. While the department builds and maintains concrete sidewalks, said Salmon, there are no standards for stone dust trails and they are higher-maintenance. If a trail is built in a VDOT right-of-way, an agreement is secured with the county that either the county or a smaller locality will maintain the trail, he said.

Weck said the county does not maintain stone dust trails either. However, she said the Trailblazers and others were prepared to take on the job themselves. "We will do it wherever people will let their neighbors walk," said Weck.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Indian Festival At Riverbend Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority invites residents to spend a day exploring Indian lore and crafts, dancing and culture, as well as storytelling at the Virginia Indian Festival on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Riverbend Park in Great Falls. The program will be held rain or shine and admission is \$8 per adult, \$5 per child under 16 years, and free for children two and under.

The Virginia Indian Festival is an annual celebration that highlights the traditions of the Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Chickahominy, Piscataway, Upper Mattaponi, Monacan Nation, Piscataway Nation and Rappahannock tribes of Virginia. Refreshments will be available.

Parking is located nearby with convenient shuttles. For more information, call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Clean-Up Day Announced

Fairfax County Park Authority has set Watershed Clean-Up Day for Saturday Oct. 18, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Individuals, students, families, scouts and other community groups can help clear out the earth's arteries by collecting tires, bed springs, bottles, cans and other debris. Give the waterways in your community a clean bill of health and earn the gratitude of our furred, feathered and scaled neighbors. Wear boots, old clothes and bring gloves. Trash bags and appreciation provided. Area participants will meet at Riverbend Visitor Center, 703-759-9018 (Potomac River). Call to reserve a section of the watershed.

For more information contact the Park Authority Resource Management Division at 703-324-8513.

Viva La Voce At St. Francis

Amadeus Concerts, under the direction of A. Scott Wood, opens its 28th season with Viva La Voce, an afternoon of songs and arias from well-loved operas. Four award-winning soloists, hosted by Frank Conlon, Amadeus pianist-in-residence: Sungji Kim, soprano; Lena Seikaly, mezzo-soprano; Richard Novak, Tenor; and Jay Jung, baritone.

Sunday, Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Admission: \$25, including post-concert refreshments and a chance to meet the performers. Students 17 and under free. Info: 703-759-5334 or www.amadeusconcerts.com

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

NEWS

Task Force Pushes Forward

Chair will lay out group's overall vision for the future of Tysons Corner.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

After three years of meetings, the Tysons Land Use Task Force is attempting to distill its vision of the future of Fairfax County's leading business district into a 10-page summary document by Sept. 22.

Task Force chairman Clark Tyler will make a presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the group's broad outlook of Tysons Corner redevelopment next month. Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) had grown impatient with the Task Force, stating, in July, that three years was enough time to come up with some conclusions for Tyson's redesign.

The Task Force has been expected to generate a plan — with boundaries and regulations — for Tysons' redevelopment that should determine how each land parcel should and could be used in the future. Several Tysons Corner area landowners, including some of Connolly's major political contributors, are frustrated at the pace of the group's progress.

If the Task Force fails to produce a plan soon, some community members fear Tysons landowners will move ahead with development projects they can build by right, instead of opting for the more transit and pedestrian-friendly plan coming from the Task Force.

"There are a lot of landowners that are ready to



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

State Sen. George Barker (D-39) and chair Clark Tyler lead the Tysons Land Use Task Force.

do something. There is whole pile of pent up interest," said Stuart Mendelson, former Dranesville supervisor and Task Force member.

MOST of the Task Force agreed with Tyler and Mendelson. All 26 of the group's members attending its Aug. 11 meeting voted to move forward with the report to the supervisors in September.

The Task Force expects to present a short summary of the group's work and conclusions as well as Tysons Corner's "area wide plan text," which should govern approximately what density and uses would be al

SEE TASK FORCE, PAGE 14

OBITUARY

Claude "Arnie" Quirion, 62

Claude "Arnie" Quirion, 62, died Aug. 2, 2008 after a short but hard-fought battle with cancer. He was born on Oct. 8, 1945 in Rochester, N.H., to Pauline Ferland Quirion and the late Leonard Quirion. He served in the Air National Guard from 1968-1974. After several career-related moves, he settled in Virginia with his family in 1985.

Quirion enjoyed a long career in the hospitality and tourism industry until his retirement in December of 2007. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, he worked nearly 30 years with Hilton Hotels, the last 13 of which were spent as general manager of the McLean Hilton. During his tenure with Hilton Hotels, Quirion's career was anchored in creativity and innovation including numerous promotions that were recognized for their ingenuity including three major events involving U.S. Olympic Teams.

From 1998 to 2004, Quirion worked on a variety of technology and hospitality ventures including the development of the George Mason University Techventure

Partnership where he served as its executive director. Formed to assist early-stage technology companies, the partnership was a joint effort with the Virginia Center for Innovative Technology. In April 2004, Quirion became the founding president and CEO of Visit Fairfax, the official tourism promotion agency for Fairfax County. As was his nature, he spent the next several years as a tireless champion of all things relating to Fairfax County tourism and was one of the county's biggest cheerleaders. Quirion was instrumental in successfully launching the tourism organization.

Many organizations have recognized Quirion for his contributions over the years: among them are the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce which selected him as "Citizen of the Year"; Leadership Fairfax which honored him with the "Creative Excellence in Leadership Award"; and the Fairfax



Claude "Arnie" Quirion

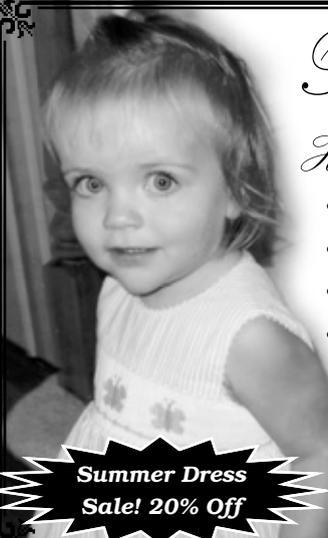
County Chamber of Commerce which selected him to receive the "James M. Reese Award" for outstanding leadership in the community.

Other professional and civic affiliations include time served as vice chairman, INOVA Hospital System

Health Care Services Board; president, Fairfax County Hotel Council; president/director/founder, Northern Virginia Hotel Association; director and president Lodging, Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association; director, Northern Virginia Community Foundation; chairman, International Children's Festival; and many others.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Pam, and three daughters, Michele, Danielle, and Nicole, as well as two sisters, Charlene Quirion and Linda Varney of North Carolina.

The funeral was held on Thursday, Aug. 7 at Vienna Presbyterian Church.



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PEOPLE

Planning Mission to Mars

Great Falls student attends space exploration academy.

Great Falls resident Alex Greenfield, a rising senior at Langley High School, recently spent a week planning a mission to Mars at the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) Academy at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

Greenfield was one of 43 students from across the state selected to take part in the VASTS Academy from July 27 to Aug. 1, hosted by NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, in a partnership with the Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

The Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars program is an intensive science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning experience, highlighted by a six-day residential summer academy. Students selected to participate in the program are immersed in NASA-related research through interaction with scientists, engineers and technologists.



Alex Greenfield

This is the first year for the VASTS program, modeled after the successful Texas Aerospace Scholars program developed by NASA. The program is designed to stimulate interest in careers in science, engineer-

"This will help with decision-making and with engineering in general."

— Alex Greenfield

ing and math among college-bound students in Virginia.

Prior to attending the academy, Greenfield completed a three-month interactive online program developed by NASA's Johnson Space Center that challenged him to help create a plan for sustaining a human presence on Mars.

Greenfield worked with a team that dealt with a specific challenge of operating an outpost on the red planet. Asked to comment on his experience, Greenfield said, "This will help with decision-making and with engineering in general," adding that he will apply what he learned at the academy to a career in engineering.

Greenfield and his teammates also built, programmed and tested robots, toured NASA labs and facilities, and interacted with NASA researchers, scientists and astronaut D. Thomas Jones.



PHOTO BY TOM NASH/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Del. Margi Margi Vanderhye (D-34th) standing in front of the Virginia Capitol in Richmond.

Vanderhye Honored

Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34) has been named a "Legislative Hero" by the Virginia League of Conservation Voters in the 9th Edition of the Legislative Conservation Scorecard, earning a score of 100 percent. The publication rates individual legislators on a series of important conservation votes cast during the 2008 General Assembly session.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the League," said Vanderhye. "Environmental issues are crucial to the quality of life for my constituents in McLean, Great Falls, Herndon, and Vienna."

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters commended forty other Virginia legislators with 100 percent scores, writing in the scorecard, "these legislators deserve a special show of support for their hard work, integrity, and dedication to environmental concerns."

"Extra credit" was also issued to legislators who patroned conservation-friendly bills that VALCV supported. Delegate Vanderhye sponsored the House version of the greenhouse gas reporting bill and also got bills passed to extend the Virginia Sales Tax Holiday to include water saving appliances and to require utility companies to inform their customers about purchasing electric power from renewable energy sources.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters serves as the nonpartisan political action arm of the state's conservation community. VALCV works throughout the session to inform the legislators and the public about legislation affecting the environment.

"The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is committed to providing an accountability tool for environmentally concerned voters in the form of an annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard," said Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director of the Virginia League. "Citizens care more about how their legislators vote on important conservation bills than whether they have a partisan R or D behind their names."

Who's Who

Find out more at www.valcv.org

Other area legislators who were rated 100 percent by the Virginia League of Conservation voters include: Del. Ken Plum (D-36) Del. Steve Shannon (D-35) and Del. Jim Scott (D-53).

Students Explore Gift of Serving Others

Pictured (above) are Vacation Bible School students and staff at a joint Vacation Bible School co-sponsored by St. Francis Episcopal Church and Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls. The theme was "God's Big Backyard." Students explored the gift of service to others through games and music, and visits from community service groups. They heard from Laurie Bell (Meals on Wheels Coordinator), Camp Fraser, Jill Norcross, Board member of Reston Interfaith, and Megan Coleman and Phil Pifer from Habitat for Humanity. Children collected over \$600 to send four children to Camp Fraser next summer. St. Francis Episcopal hosted this year's VBS, and the director was Lynn Fallon.



BUSINESS PEOPLE

To have business notes listed, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Pam Long has joined the LeapFrog Solutions, Inc. (LFS), a full-service strategic marketing communications firm, as Account Director. In her position, she will serve as a senior project manager lending her more than 20 years of marketing experience to the agency's growing roster of government, technology and professional service firm clients.

"As our growth continues I am confident that Pam's experience will play a vital role in ensuring we provide the most targeted marketing strategies and tactics based on sound knowledge of our client's business goals and objectives," said LFS President and CEO Lisa Martin. Long's background includes project management and creative development for several worldwide corporations including TMP Worldwide and Phoenix Creative

Group. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Advertising from Radford University.

Paula Birth has been named Director of communications and media practice for Acumen Solutions, a business and technology consulting firm. Birth is responsible for market expansion within the cable industry. Birth has more than twenty years of experience in telecommunications and media companies. Most recently, she was director of sales operations for Comcast Business Services where she was responsible for all sales infrastructures and operations across five regions in the eastern division. Prior to Comcast, Birth held a variety positions, including at Mediacom Communications of New York, Charter Communications, PenTeleData and C-TEC Corporation. Birth also founded P-Squared Solutions, LLC, a professional consulting firm specializing in business development, sales, marketing, integration, management, and data

communications. Birth received her bachelor of science in business administration from Alameda University in Idaho. She serves on an executive committee of the Cable Telecommunications Association for Marketing and is a member of Society of Cable and Telephony Engineers and Women in Cable.

Brinker Toastmasters meets at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna, the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. Those interested in becoming more effective listeners, leaders and speakers are welcome. Visit brinker.wordpress.com.

Women's Newcomer's Club meets the second Thursday of the month at Marco Polo Italian Restaurant in Vienna. Each program vary from authors to gardening tips, and feature guest speakers. Call Nancy Crowley at 703-938-4835 for reservations.

PEOPLE

Writer of Happy Endings

Barbara Brooks Wallace shares stories about her life and her books.

BY CORINNA PAN
THE CONNECTION

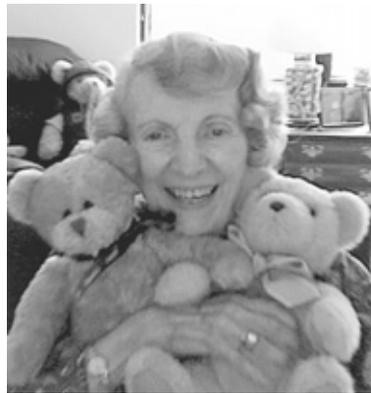
She wears man shirts, watches "American Idol" and "Seinfeld" re-runs, and makes people laugh. And she is famous, too.

Recently featured in a July UCLA Alumni Newsletter, Barbara Brooks Wallace is an accomplished children's writer, currently living in Vinson Hall in McLean.

Having been compared to the Harry Potter series author J.K. Rowling, she is the author of "Peppermints in the Parlor," a children's book. She has won multiple awards — including two Mystery Writers' Edgar Awards — for her writing, and her books have come alive in different media forms: a recording by Angela Lansbury, a television special, a musical performance on stage, and an e-book.

BORN IN CHINA to a Russian mother and an American father, Wallace did not have a typical American childhood. "Bobbie," as Brooks Wallace likes to be called, and her older sister grew up with amahs — Chinese caretakers — and spent summers in Beidaihe, a Chinese resort. After attending a British American school in China, Wallace enrolled at Pomona College for one year before transferring to UCLA, graduating with a major in international relations.

Wallace says that she regrets her major, having chosen it "because I figured I'd go overseas and have adventures and write about them," and wishes that she had started



Barbara Brooks Wallace's books reflect her experiences and the places she has lived.

writing earlier. She recalls at Pomona, a professor had once recommended that she venture into writing, telling her that her writings were "the quality of The New Yorker."

"But as I've told everybody ... if I had gone that route, I wouldn't be here talking to you today. ... You know how life takes these turns? I probably would've been someplace else."

It was not until her son Jimmy was in kindergarten, that her sister reminded her about what her professor had said to her about writing. Living in California at the time, Wallace started a creative writing course at Santa Monica College and then was taken in as a private student by a professor there.

"I was in my 30s when I started writing which is why I'm so old," jokes Wallace.

Her love of the English language is obvious during the interview. "I sometimes think I should have become an editor because I love words," she said. "You know, it's something you're born with. I can just see when it's said wrong."

HER BOOKS reflect the different places and experiences Wallace

has lived in and through, her first children's story — which was never published — having been inspired by her time in China.

Although she calls her first children's story "dreadful," she says, "It got me hooked on the idea of writing for children, and then I did never want to do anything else. That's how I started."

She says that Sugar Hill Hall in her novel "Peppermints in the Parlor" was inspired by a guest house in San Francisco. "Inside is what you call decayed elegance," she said. "It was a boarding house for young people."

Some of her other books like "Claudia" were inspired by her son and his young playmates' childhood experiences. Her Victorian mysteries were mainly inspired by Charles Dickens, one of her favorite authors.

Wallace has a deep admiration for her mother, describing her mother's story as "more fascinating" than her own. Wallace's mother was born in Russia to poor parents, but eventually made her way into the an acclaimed medical school in China to become a nurse.

A self-described "chatty Cathy," Wallace is a young-hearted spirit, with a great sense of humor. She says, "I won't write a book that doesn't have a happy ending. I love humor."

At Vinson Hall, she continues to write and has even started a small writing group called WordWeavers. In addition to being a writer, she enjoys being a grandmother to two granddaughters.

Many of her books are available online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Pat Carson, a former Alpha Phi sorority sister at UCLA of Wallace, says about her close friend, "She's a very exceptional person in many ways. And I'm very proud of her."

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Particularly as gas prices soar, many people are turning to their two-wheeled friends, be it bicycle or motorcycle, for lower cost transportation.

Motorcycle sales have spiked, quadrupling in recent years with more than a million motorcycles sold in 2006.

But bicyclists and motorcycle riders are vulnerable on the roads. Motorcycles are sometimes hard to see in traffic, and drivers of larger

vehicles must be on the lookout.

Since June, there have been at least eight motorcycle fatalities in the Washington area. Last weekend, a 26-year-old Centreville man was killed when he lost control of the 2001 Honda motorcycle he was riding, according to police reports.

In 2007 there were 2,601 motorcycle crashes which resulted in 126 deaths and 2,284 injuries in Virginia.

For motorcycle riders, the keys to survival are wearing an approved helmet and protec-

tive clothing, taking safety courses, practicing in a controlled setting and riding defensively.

For drivers of larger vehicles, allow a motorcyclist plenty of room, including the full width of a lane, and more following distance. A motorcycle can stop faster than a car. And motorcyclists may need to react quickly to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement — road conditions which are minor annoyances to cars pose major hazards to motorcyclists.

EDITORIAL

Justin Spring, Bronze Medal

Justin Spring, 24 and a graduate of Lake Braddock, helped lift the U.S. men's gymnastic team to an Olympic bronze medal on Monday night (Virginia time) in Beijing.

Spring had exceptional performances on the high bar and parallel bars.

His triple somersault for his dismount from the high bar brought elation to his teammates. NBC changed plans to televise the team competition as it became clear that the U.S. expectedly had a shot at a medal. But here at the Connection, we think any local

that makes the Olympic team is worth watching, with or without being in contention for winning a medal.

In early July, when he was named to the team Spring spoke with Connection reporter Eric Gilmore:

"The only way I can explain it is that I love my life right now," Justin Spring said. "It's been a dream come true."

We'd guess that's all the more true today, and that many, many local people can share in his success.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need Further Analysis

To the Editor:

Your editorial ["Seeking More Diversity at TJ," Connection, July 31-Aug. 6, 2008] demonstrates a lack of understanding of the key difference between TJ and the base high schools.

All Fairfax County high schools offer advanced (AP or IB) math and science classes. All Fairfax County high schools provide students with opportunities to participate in science fairs. However, only TJ offers a multitude of post-AP math and science classes and related co-curricular activities for students who want to go far beyond the normal high school math and science programs.

It makes no sense to reserve seats at TJ for students whose needs can be met at their local high schools just because they live in certain neighborhoods or belong to certain racial groups. Under the admissions process proposed in the editorial, more students who would take advantage of unusually advanced TJ math and science options would be denied that opportunity because they are from "overrepresented" groups.

As a long-time TJ parent and volunteer, I have seen first-hand how TJ students who excel in math are far more likely to take advantage of TJ's most advanced offerings in math and science. TJ students with weaker math skills often seek out the easiest ways to satisfy TJ's math and science requirements, and gravitate towards activities available in all high schools, such as the yearbook, student paper, student government, and sports.

The Connection's editorial assumes that students who enjoy science in elementary school will become "leaders in math or science" even if they don't have good test scores. There is no proof for that assumption. In fact, research suggests the opposite is true.

Before Fairfax County revamps the TJ admissions process yet again in search of diversity, Fairfax County should gather, analyze and publish data — including middle and high school math test scores — regarding TJ graduates who majored in math, science or engineering, versus TJ graduates who majored in non-STEM subjects such as journalism, business, or history. The results of that analysis should be more important than the percentage of TJ students from "underrepresented" groups.

Louise Epstein
McLean

Stealing Symbols Of Free Speech

To the Editor:

Apparently there are people in our community who do not believe in one of the most precious freedoms citizens of the United States of America enjoy: freedom of political expression; a right that millions of people around the world do not enjoy. I gave my neighbor an Obama yard sign, this week it was stolen. Not only did the thief impinge on my neighbor's First Amendment right to free speech, he stole my neighbors' property. And, because I purchased the yard sign I am out of pocket the amount it cost me. Nevertheless, I will purchase a new

sign to replace the one stolen. That is how passionately I feel about our right to freedom of political expression. Luckily, every purchase of a yard sign benefits the Obama campaign — the more yard signs are stolen and then replaced by supporters, the more funds go to the Obama campaign. I am extremely disappointed that this happened in my community. Some of my neighbors have McCain yard signs. I would never dream of going onto their property and stealing these yard signs.

Cecilia Kalish
McLean

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
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McLean, Va. 22102
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NEWS

Forestville Sets Three Goals

School focuses on academics, life skills and community.

Forestville Elementary School Principal Matt Harris shares much news in anticipation of the new school year.

Q: What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?

A: We have a lot of exciting news from Forestville with a continued emphasis on the three school plan goals focusing on academics, essential life skills and responsibility to the community. We have two important new initiatives: The Scholarship Club, twice weekly morning study sessions for students who need academic support and half hour slots during the school day for each grade level to offer "intervention and intense study" for children at every grade level. These initiatives lend themselves to the rich academic atmosphere at Forestville: We are entering our second year of our school-based GT center with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes, our second year of our Positive Behavior Support Program, and our third year of the Teacher Leadership Grant emphasizing higher order thinking skills.

Q: Any new academic programs, initiatives?

A: With eight staff members in-



Forestville Elementary School Principal Matt Harris and Assistant Principal Kathleen (Kathy) Quigley.

volved in a week-long Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies this summer, we expect all children to benefit from the sharing that will occur from this training. We also eagerly anticipate the new FCPS on-line instructional tool e-cart to offer instructional guidance and formative assessment tools. Finally, we will begin the Global Awareness Project with our fifth graders.

Q: Changes in personnel?

A: In replacing teachers or assistants who retired or transferred, we have added a first grade teacher, Norma Chicas, two physical education teachers, Mitch Carl and Hilary Wagar, a special educator, Lindsay Barnas, and a general education instructional assistant, Fredda Regen and special education assistant, Kia Cole, and

Shana Twitchell, GT resource teacher.

Q: Number of students?

A: Currently we have 720 students enrolled in grades K-6th. We have fewer than expected kindergartners and want to encourage parents to enroll their children.

Q: Important days in the fall school calendar?

A: In consultation with PTA President Malia Kishore, we came up with the following important fall dates for Forestville Elementary: Back to School Nights Sept. 16 (K-2nd grades) and Sept. 17 (3rd-6th grades). On dates to be determined, we will have a Skate Night, a Fall Adult Social and a Book Fair. We are also considering a mock presidential election in the fall.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/AUGUST 14

VTRCC Monthly Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Café Renaissance, 163 Glyndon St., Vienna. Speaker to be announced. Contact info@vtrcc.org or call 703-281-1333.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

The Virginia Area Public Information Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous will be holding a free workshop for Professionals in Northern Virginia who are interested in learning more about the AA program. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the 2008 Virginia Area Convention and Southeastern Regional Conference of AA. Workshop Topic: What AA is and isn't. Refreshments in the hospitality suite. RSVP to pubinfo@aa virginia.org 3 - 4:30 p.m., Sheraton Premiere Tyson

Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Tel: 703-448-1234.

TUESDAY/AUGUST 26

VTRCC Non Profit Mixer. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Courtyard by Marriott, 1960 A Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Contact info@vtrcc.org or call 703-281-1333.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Back Pack Safety Program for children, parents and teachers, presented by spine and wellness expert, Dr. Brandon Lemuel, owner of PalmerCare Chiropractic-Vienna. Did you know that over 7,000 children are taken to the emergency room every year for back pack-related spinal injuries? Most these injuries can be prevented. Plan an evening for your family to stop by Patrick Henry Library located at 101 Maple Avenue East in Vienna, from 7-8 pm. Bring your back pack with you that evening and the books you carry in it. Free.

Call 703) 319-1212 or contact drbrandon@palmercare.com for more information.

ONGOING

CTS Partners in Health offers free classes on Friday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm at 443 Carlisle Drive in Herndon. Call 703-568-9224.

OFTC Friday Night Dances at Club Inferno will be held every Friday night in September. For more information, please call OFTC at 703-448-8336 (TEEN).

St. Mark ESL program in Vienna is seeking new volunteers to staff its ESL/basic computer skills program. Volunteers are needed to teach, provide child care, and assist in the classrooms as well as to help with administration and publicity. No foreign language skills are needed. Volunteers generally work one evening a week, Tuesday or Thursday. For more information or to volunteer, email esl_express@yahoo.com.

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



Smokey Robinson will appear on August 14 at 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/AUGUST 14

Summer Stories and Sprinklers.

1:30 p.m. Listen to stories then take a run through the sprinklers at Vienna's original one-room library, Freeman House, 131 Church Street, Vienna. Free. Call 703-255-6360.

Olympic Games. Travel to China, test your skills and take home a medal. Age 6-12. 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, Tel: 703-356-0770.

Stories Under the Stars Bedtime Program. Come in your jammies and enjoy some of our favorite bedtime stories. All ages. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton, 703-242-4020.

Jammin Java Summer Camp Rock Shows. Free summer camp rock show: be amazed at what campers can produce in just two weeks of learning and rehearsing. These bands will compete in the Summer Camp Battle of the Bands at the end of the summer. 1 p.m. at 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Visit www.jamminjava.com or call 703-255-1566.

An Evening with the Greencards. Americana/bluegrass. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Tickets \$15. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Forever Young in Irish Gaelic. Using uilleann pipes, fiddle, bodhran, guitar and a variety of Irish whistles,



Skirmish line at last year's encampment.



Children learning to play hoops at last year's encampment.

Civil War Encampment at Sully Historic

Sully Historic Site will host a Civil War Weekend Encampment on Aug. 16-17. Skirmishes both days will illustrate military tactics of the period. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate the work of the army, including drill practice and rifle firing, while visitors can

fall in as recruits and learn marching maneuvers. Civilian reenactors will portray the experiences of Northern Virginia residents during the early years of the Civil War. Play historic games and enjoy music on the lawn performed by Evergreen Shade. On Saturday, see a parade of 19th century fashion

and learn what is needed to be a reenactor. Visitors can take a guided tour of the first and second floors of the 1794 home of Richard Bland Lee, Northern Virginia's first congressman and uncle of Robert E. Lee, and view rarely seen 19th century artifacts from the Fairfax County collections.

Sior-Og performs classical dance tunes such as jigs, reels, slip jigs and hornpipes. Free. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Nottoway Park, 9601 Couthouse Road, Vienna.

Smokey Robinson. 8 p.m. \$42 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten. 8 p.m. \$40 in house, \$22 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

Civil War Weekend Encampment at Sully Historic Site. August 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, August 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Skirmishes both days illustrate military tactics of the period. Costumed interpreters demonstrate the work of the army, including drill practice and rifle firing. Fall in as a recruit and learn marching maneuvers. Civilian reenactors portray the experiences of Northern Virginia residents during the early years of the Civil War. Play historic games and enjoy music on the lawn performed by Evergreen Shade. On Saturday, see a parade of 19th century fashions and learn what is needed to be a reenactor. \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children, including a guided tour of the first and second floors of the 1794 home of Richard Bland Lee, Northern Virginia's first congressman and uncle of Robert E. Lee. On view will be rarely seen 19th century artifacts from the Fairfax County collections. Last house tour begins at 4 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly, located on Route 28, one quarter mile north of Route 50. Call 703-437-1794.

Richard Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos. A lighthearted look into the themes of art versus realism, and the capriciousness of love. Bams at Wolf Trap. 8 p.m. In German with English supertitles. Tickets \$28 to \$68.

Game On. Runescape, DDR, Wii, pizza and soda at the library. Age 10-18. 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Tel: 703-938-0405.

Mystic Warriors: Andean music in the Bolivian/Peruvian traditions. 6:30 p.m. Free. Concerts on the Green, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call to register, 703-255-6360.

G. Love and Special Sauce. 7 p.m. \$34 in house, \$30 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

Meadowlark Gardens Daylily Sale. Free. A large selection of both named and unnamed varieties will be available for purchase, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., to support the gardens by raising funds and sharing the bounty of the more than 500 beautiful daylily varieties. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Call 703-255-3631.

Expanded Gatehouse Shop, featuring educational materials and gifts. Call 703-442-7557 or visit www.1771.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 17
Learn Woodcarving at Colvin Run Mill, from noon to 4 p.m. The wood carvers will lend their tools and expertise to teach the basic techniques of this art. Appropriate for ages 6 to 96. Lessons are free. There is a nominal charge for wood blanks. For information, call 703-759-2771.

The Backstreet Boys. \$45 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

No Better Off. 6 - 8 p.m. Free. Local group plays acoustic roots music, blending folk, rock, bluegrass, blues and country. Outdoors at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. 703-288-9505.

Lighters and Matches are Tools for Grownups Only! A puppet show presented by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Participants will each receive a helmet, activity book, and parent brochure. Age 3-7 with adult. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library. 703-757-8560.

Bedtime Stories. Stories to end the day. All ages. 7 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, Tel: 703-356-0770.

TUESDAY/AUGUST 19
Richard Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos. A lighthearted look into the themes of art versus realism, and the capriciousness of love. Bams at Wolf Trap. 8 p.m. In German with English supertitles. Tickets \$28 to \$68.

Bernstein: A Celebration! Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$20 to \$55. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation

for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

Book Discussion Group. The Sea by John Banville. Adults. No registration is required. 7:15 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton, 703-242-4020.

Kenny Rogers and the Oak Ridge Boys. 7:30 p.m. \$40 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

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Cathy Ponton King (Blues/Sweet Ballads). A Washington, D.C. singer has a brand new CD, "Under Tow," featuring all new originals plus blues. Free. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Nottoway Park, 9601 Couthouse Road, Vienna.

FRIDAY/AUGUST 22
Pokemon League. Learn and play! Age 5-18. No registration is required. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Tel: 703-938-0405.

U.S. Navy Country Currents Band. 6:30 p.m. Free. Concerts on the Green, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call to register, 703-255-6360.

Eddie from Ohio. 7:30 p.m. \$32 in house, \$22 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/AUGUST 23
Greenberg's Train and Toy Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Model and toy train experts, exhibits and demonstrations. Operating train layouts in various sizes and scales; how-to demonstrations, videos and publications; scenery supplies, hobby tools, train parts, accessories and more. \$7 adults; children 11 and under free. Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. Visit www.GreenbergShows.com.

of Robert E. Lee. On view will be rarely seen 19th century artifacts from the Fairfax County collections. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly, located on Route 28, one quarter mile north of Route 50. Call 703-437-1794.

MONDAY/AUGUST 18
Stamping Sensation. Stop by and decorate placemats, bookmarks and greeting cards using rubber stamps. Age 8-12. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Tel: 703-938-0405.

The Backstreet Boys. \$45 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

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A reenactor portraying General Robert E. Lee at Sully's 2007 encampment.

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NEWS

As the story of the Blue Monster opens, a little girl (Amanda Fox of Oakton-Herndon area) dreams up a story of magic and heroes.



The cast of the Blue Monster.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ CONNECTION

Theater Under Stars

Traveling Players conclude summer of work and fun.

This past Friday, Aug. 8, some of the area's talented young actors of the Great Falls-based Traveling Players Ensemble took the stage at the Maderia School in McLean, to conclude their long summer of hard work and fun.

These boys and girls range from fifth graders to high school students. The day camp for small troupe actors, and is taught by professional actors and directors. The actors get the opportunity to experience performing in outdoor amphitheaters.

"The goal of the camp is to bring classical theater to the great outdoors", said Jeanne Harrison, the camp director.

Friday the troupe put on three performances. Carlo Gozzi's "Blue Monster," and

Moliere's "Doctor in Spite of Himself," were performed by the middle school performers. "As You Like It," by Shakespeare, was put on by the high school students.

The productions drew a crowd of about 100. Following the middle school shows, there was a picnic dinner for the cast and their families to share. Afterwards the high school students took the stage. The actors showed energy and passion in what they were doing.

To conclude the evening, the crowd gathered around a campfire down by the Potomac River, to celebrate their four weeks of hard work. The actors appreciated getting to spend the night with their friends and family. "Every Thursday we camp out, teaching the campers outdoor skills. It's re-

ally special bringing together theater and the outdoors. We really put the camping back into camp", said Harrison.

The average camper will come back for four consecutive summers, because of the experiences they enjoy. For Katie Goldberg, a graduate of the Washington International School in D.C., this was her sixth summer at Traveling Players Ensemble. "I loved the camp, it was the greatest summer experience that I ever had", said Goldberg

"The bonds that these kids form here are incredible, most of the campers will grow up and still stay in touch with their camp friends", said Jen Schwartz, a camp counselor.

— HAYLEY MILON



Founder and artistic director Jeanne Harrison welcomes everyone to the first performance of the afternoon on Friday.



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FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

English classes for adults sponsored by ESL and Immigrant Ministries will be offered in 17 locations in Northern Virginia. Childcare is available at some locations. Registration begins September 2, 2008. A \$20 processing fee is requested. Scholarships are available. Check www.eslim.org for class locations and schedules or call 703-841-0292 and leave a message. Calls will be returned in English, Spanish, Korean, or Vietnamese.

Guest Speaker Bob Sorge at Christian Assembly, 8200 Bell Lane, Vienna, on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Sorge served for thirteen years as senior pastor of Zion Fellowship in Canandaigua, N.Y., and now bases his writing and traveling ministry in Kansas City MO. Among his works are: *Secrets of the Secret Place*, *Exploring Worship*, *The Fire of Delayed Answers* and *Pain, Perplexity, and Promotion*.

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation invites new and prospective members to its **Annual Open House Ice Cream Social** on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2-4 p.m. in the Social Hall. Enjoy an ice cream sundae, meet and speak with Rabbi Robert A. Nosanchuk, Cantor Irena Altshul, Religious School Director Moshe Ben-Lev, Preschool Director Fran Gibbs, Temple Administrator Fay Weiss, and other temple leaders. Take a tour of the temple and learn about the programs offered. 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. Call 703-437-7733 or visit www.nvhcreston.org.

Homecoming & Anniversary Celebration. Shiloh Baptist Church celebrates 135 years of ministry. Sunday, Sept. 14: 11 a.m. - Homecoming Worship Service; 3:30 p.m. - Anniversary Worship Service, Guest Preacher Rev. Todd A. Brown, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Chesterbrook. Dr. Robert F. Cheeks, Jr., Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, 8310 Turning Leaf Lane, McLean. 703-893-8982. www.sbcmclean.org

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy Mondays 7-8:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, \$10 per class. Call 202-331-2122 or visit www.meditation-dc.org.

Vienna Assembly of God has ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays is also available. 703-938-7736 or visit www.ViennaAG.com.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms: a place to receive healing. Every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane, a team of Christians is available to pray for anyone requesting prayer. The rooms are open to the public without charge. For more information call 703-698-9779 or visit www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

The **Baha'i community of McLean** holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, beginning at 8 p.m. every Friday. The fireside is an opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith and why Baha'is find hope in a seemingly hopeless world. Call 703-556-3400.

English classes. McLean Baptist Church is offering free conversational English classes on Mondays. Classes include beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. There is no cost for the class or registration, however students must buy their own books. Classes are from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. New student registration begins at 9 a.m., until Oct. 30. McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Call 703-356-8080 or visit www.mcleanbaptist.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, located at 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, invites all to come for the Third Sunday Service every month at 10:15 a.m. This service allows the children to play active roles during the service, particularly in the music and as greeters and ushers. In addition to the Third Sunday Service, traditional services take place every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. Call the church office at 703-356-7533 with questions.

A **Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. The group will also hear portions from "A Centered Life," an audio tape series by Basil Pennington. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Unitarian Universalist

Rail Links Present and Future

FROM PAGE XX

can get" and that "we'll just have to be extremely vigilant" in its execution.

Foust also expressed disappointment that a tunnel option for Tysons Corner is not being at least evaluated as an alternative. "I still am very concerned about the fact we'll be elevating it through Tysons," he said of the project. "All over the world they are putting these systems under urban centers."

Bennett could not provide an exact date for the completion of Phase II, through Dulles Airport and out to Ashburn, of the rail extension. He said the probable date is in 2016 or 2017. He said the cost estimates for the completion of the project have not changed. "We're still holding on to those original cost estimates," he said.

Foust said he would like to have a definite date, but is not concerned that one is not provided yet. He said much more detail about Phase II is needed before a construction schedule could be set. However, what does concern him is that the special tax district that would help pay for that part of the extension has not been established yet. Also, he said, if construction costs have escalated for Phase I of the project, then there should not be an assumption that Phase II costs will remain unchanged. "I don't know if that is realistic," said Foust.

THOSE GATHERED at Wednesday's luncheon listened as Mineta compared the Dulles Corridor and surrounding area of the future, to the past and present. Some 30 years ago, he said, Dulles Corridor consisted of four lanes, all of them leading to the airport, and Route 28 was a two-lane country road.

The two corridors comprised 4 percent of the Washington region's economy. "Reston was still an interesting experiment," said Mineta, and Tysons Corner was a shopping center attached to a parking lot.

Today, said Mineta, the two corridors account for 25 percent of the region's economy. Introducing the rail system to the Dulles Corridor, he said, would link its present and future companies, universities and research facilities with resources and markets worldwide.

"Transit and highway improvements can offer people the mobility and freedoms" by offering a choice.

Without a transit system in the corridor, Mineta said, its residents and employees would not be served well. The current highway system was established to meet 20th century needs. "Today's transportation systems are, quite frankly, failing the American people," said Mineta, adding that Dulles Corridor is at the cutting edge of the change that is required to meet 21st century needs.

"Without a doubt, transportation is key to generating and enabling economic growth," said Mineta. "Transportation is thus the key to both our economic success as well as our quality of life."

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) said he believes he will live to take his grandchildren to Dulles Airport on the rail line. "It will be a renaissance in this region," he said of the extension project. "This will be important for economic development, jobs, quality of life, moms and dads who will get up and take that train to D.C., Tysons" and other communities on the rail line. Wolf said Rail to Dulles would prove that the Washington area is one of the best places in the world to live and do business.

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NEWS

Task Force To Report On Sept. 22

FROM PAGE 5

lowed in the business center. "It is very important that we have area wide plan text," said Tyler.

The Task Force also intends to incorporate a George Mason University study on transit and infrastructure needed to sustain Tysons' growth – which will come out in September – into the supervisors' report, said Tyler.

But despite the supervisors and landowners' demands for more information, the Task Force report is unlikely to provide much precise language about what to expect in Tysons Corner.

"I don't think a whole lot was really resolved in there," said Ted Alexander, head of the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition, a group concerned about the increased density in Tysons Corner.

A draft of the Task Force's summary report does not give any specific numbers on the density that would be permitted in the new urban center. The most detail provided is a statement about the number of Tysons' jobs increasing from "110,000 today to as much as 200,000 at the end of the 30-year planning horizon."

In another statement, a draft of the report states that, "this needs to be balanced by building housing for up to 100,000 residents compared to 17,000 today."

Tyler said a new "review and drafting" committee of the Task Force – chaired by Sen. George Barker (D-39) — would tackle planned development of Tysons Corner after the Sept. 22 presentation. This committee may also determine where certain concentrations – such as an entertainment and arts area – would be placed in the new urban center.

"We are going to have to work with people. ... It may take a little while to do it," said Barker, of planning the Tysons' eight new zoning districts.

Even without much detail yet, Alexander said he is pleased the Task Force is moving forward with a report. He said it has been difficult for the public to respond to proposals discussed by the Task Force since the group had not made many definitive decisions about what to recommend.

"Those [increased density proposals] scare me ... But it is hard to respond until they get a report out there," said Alexander.

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The festival featured area Asian restaurants, which offered off-the-menu specialties to the visitors.



PHOTOS BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC/THE CONNECTION

Asian Culture Displayed

Tens of thousands of visitors flocked to Lake Newport in Reston for the Fifth Annual Asian Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9 and 10. The two-day festival featured cultural performances, including dancing, music and martial arts, and fea-

tured cuisine and traditional dress. The Thai Tennis Organization in America organized the event that also offered activities for children, including a Council for the Arts of Herndon tent where the children drew and colored dragons.

— MIRZA KURSPAHIC

A crowd gathered to watch a cultural dance from Myanmar, formerly Burma, at the Asian Festival as Springfield resident Myatt Tazar Lynn performed the Water Dance.



The festival highlighted China this year and Beijing Olympics mascots greeted visitors at the entrance to the Chinese Village.



Davisson Han, a student at the O-Mei Wushu school in Fairfax, performs a routine at the 5th Annual Asian Festival. Two of the school's members are scheduled to compete on Aug. 24 at the Beijing Olympics.



Audrey Huie, also from the Wushu school in Fairfax, performs her routine. Eight of the school's junior team members are preparing for a competition in Bali.

SPORTS

SUMMER SPORTS ROUNDUP

Local swimming sensation **Kate Ziegler** of Great Falls was scheduled to swim in the preliminary races of the women's 800-free event this Thursday at the Olympic Games in Beijing. Her hopes will be to qualify for Friday night's finals (U.S. time).

Ziegler, a Bishop O'Connell High graduate who is participating in her first Olympic Games, experienced a downer earlier this week when she did not qualify for the finals in the 400-free event.

Ziegler, age 20 and a student at George Mason University, holds several world record marks in the 1,500-free event. The 1,500, however, is not an Olympic swimming event.

In the 400-free event, Ziegler needed to finish among the top eight to advance to the finals. But she was unable to do so in Sunday's preliminaries. However, she still has the opportunity to put together a strong showing in the upcoming 800-free event.

Torrie Zarella and Ryan Natal of Great Falls represented Lowes Island Club at the DCCL All Star Finals on July 27 at Westwood Country Club. The two obtained gold in each of their three events. Torrie (14) finished first in the 50-freestyle, 50-backstroke and the 100-IM events. She was also awarded the Spotswood Trophy for the second year in a row. (The Spotswood Trophy is a special award that acknowledges the top female swimmer in the 13-14 age category.)

Ryan Natal (14) finished first in the 50-freestyle, 50-butterfly and the 100-IM races. He was also acknowledged for obtaining the league record for the 13-14 male 50-butterfly with a time of 27.29 seconds.

Other swimmers from Great Falls who also represented Lowes Island and finished with gold were Stephanie Cantrick, Justin Rose and Mary Bishop. Best times and top six finishes were held by Courtney and Jennifer Cantrick, Sophia Divone, Thomas Natal, Kristin Bishof, Eric Abravanel and Caitlyn Rose. Congrats swimmers!

Below are the results from a recent **Highlands Whomping Turtles** swim meet. Note that two new team records were set by Charlie Putnam and Lina Zimmerman.

Event 1: 8-under 25-meters, Clayton Kiyonaga placed eighth.

Event 6: 11-12 girls 50-free, Claire Collins placed 11th.

Event 9: 15-18 boys 50-free, Brian Murphy placed 11th.

Event 9: 15-18 boys 50-free, Conor Evans scratched.

Event 11: 8-under boys 25-back, Diego Cruzado placed eighth.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lowes Island Club swim team members Torrie Zarella and Ryan Natal both won several gold medals at the DCCL All Star Finals on July 27 at Westwood Country Club in Vienna.

Event 19: 15-18 boys 50-back, Charlie Putnam placed third. (Charlie set a new team record with a mark of 28.31. The old mark was 28:45).

Event 23: 9-10 boys 50-breast, Patrick Dolan, 1st alternate.

Event 22: Girls 25-breaststroke, Eleanor Doolittle, 2nd alternate placed 12th.

Event 26: 11-12 girls 50-breaststroke, Claire Collins placed third.

Event 28: 13-14 girls 50-breaststroke, Lina Zimmerman placed 10th. (Lina set a new team record of 37:79. The old record was 38:00 back in 1976).

Event 29: 15-18 boys 50-breast, Stephen Richards placed first.

Event 31: 8-under boys 25-fly, Diego Cruzado, first alternate.

Event 31: 8-under boys 25-fly, Clayton Kiyonaga placed 14th.

Event 35: 11-12 boys 50-fly, Avand Lakmazaheri placed 10th.

Event 38: 13-14 girls 50-fly, Lina Zimmerman placed ninth.

Event 39: 15-18 boys 50-fly, Conor Evans, scratched.

Event 47: 15-18 boys 100-IM, Charlie Putnam, placed fourth.

Event 47: 15-18 boys 100-IM, Stephen Richards placed third.

Langley Club sent nine swimmers to All-Stars: Emily Wallach (8-under free), Isaac Peress (9-10 free and back), Nathan Johnson (9-10 back and breast), Katie

Robinson (11-12 back), Nathan Robinson (11-12 IM), Nicole Johnson (13-14 breast), Meghan Overend (15-18 free and fly), Tracy DeMocker (15-18 breast) and Jamie Sexton (15-18 breast). Nathan Johnson placed third in back, Nicole Johnson placed third in breast and Peress placed fourth in back. Nicole Johnson broke the 13-14 breaststroke record with a time of 36.56.

The Highlands dive team ended its season by beating Parliament, 42 to 30, at Parliament on July 22. The Whomping Turtles, coached by Stephanie Sutton, with assistant coaches Abby Neuberger and Cameron Hancock, finished with a record of 5-0.

Evelyn Gray and Maggie finished first and second in Freshman Girls, and Michael Pope was second in Freshman Boys. Katelyn Bond, Madeline Neuberger, and Hallie Pope swept the Junior Girls division, and Johnny Bowman and Scott Calendar finished first and third in Junior Boys. Cameron Hancock and Rebecca McGovern finished first and third in Intermediate Girls, as did Scott Sawicki and Timmy Jenkins in Intermediate Boys. Abby Neuberger placed third in Senior Girls, and Ian Clark was second in Senior Boys.

At the Division III Championship meet on July 27, Highlands' Evelyn Gray placed second and Maggie McDonough placed sixth in Freshman Girls. Michael Pope finished second, Reed Bond was eighth, and David Craighead was 11th in Freshman

Boys. In Juniors, Katelyn Bond was second and Madeline Neuberger finished 11th for the girls. Johnny Bowman was third and Scott Sawicki was sixth for the boys. Cameron Hancock won first place, Abby Neuberger was fourth, and Lauren Tangney was fifth in Intermediate Girls.

Evelyn Gray, Michael Pope, Katelyn Bond, and Cameron Hancock qualified to compete in the 2008 All-Star meet at Dunn Loring on August 3. Johnny Bowman was an All-Star alternate.

The RiverBend StingRays proved they were a force to be reckoned with during the Dominion Country Club League All-Star Meet. Fifty-four RiverBend swimmers were selected as All-Star nominees or alternates, and a whopping 40 medals were earned at the final meet on Sunday at Westwood, including six first place golds, six second place silvers and eight bronze medals.

Jessica Hawken broke two 15-18 Girls League Records in free and fly. First place finishers included Ryan Windus, Max Trautwein, Erin Fredrick, Carter Bennett and Jessica Hawken. Other finalists were Will Koeppen, Luke Bennett, Chloe Bennett, Luke Peele, Jake Trautwein, Helena Burns, Micaela Grassi, Jack Peele, Conor Wesolowski, Sabrina Slavin, Andrew Kvasnicka, Amanda Maruca, Olivia Justus, Patrick Duff, Cassidy Wolfe and Blaine Appleby.

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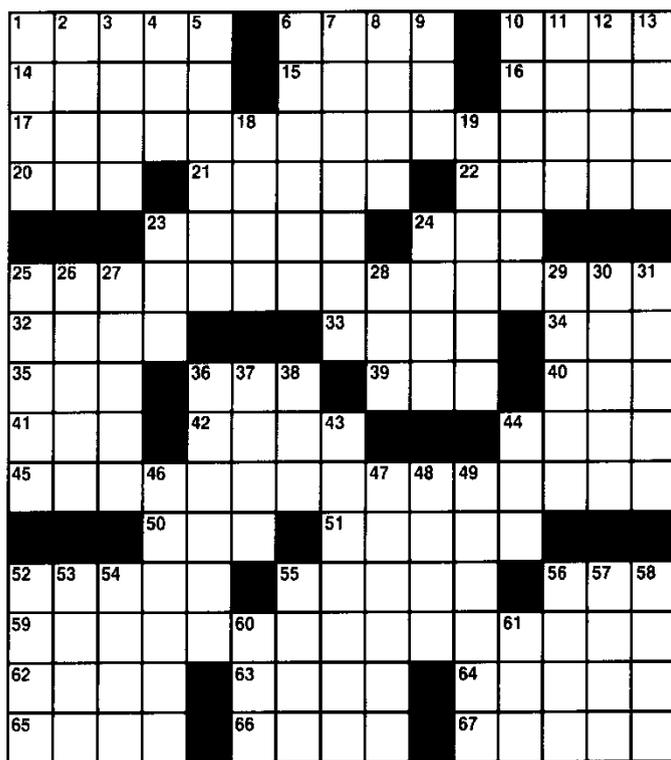
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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0323-6



Puzzle by Nathaniel Weiss

ACROSS

- 1 Ayatollahs' predecessors
6 Gunslinger's command
10 "Oh, my!"
14 Hooded snake
15 Othello's false friend
16 "I'm ___ you!"
17 Start of a quip
20 Summer shirt, informally
21 Mallards' homes
22 Metric volume
23 Place for a 45
24 Clinch, as a deal
25 Part 2 of the quip
32 Son of Venus
33 Stiff denial
34 Old polit. cause
35 Dosage unit
36 Caribbean music
39 Ovine utterance
40 A major, maybe
41 Hydrocarbon suffix
42 Paris recreation area
44 Lucy's partner
45 Part 3 of the quip
50 Entanglement

- 51 Encumbrances
52 One who grins and bears it
55 Greek S
56 Biol., e.g.
59 End of the quip
62 Novelist Waugh
63 Tallow source
64 Words before sight and mind
65 Entanglement
66 Stumbles
67 Query before "Here goes!"

DOWN

- 1 "Out!"
2 Balderdash
3 Strong of body and mind
4 Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.
5 Early Greek lyric poet
6 1934 quintuplet
7 Forcefully stuff, as a throat
8 Turkish generals
9 Took the trophy
10 Chin beard
11 ___ and for all
12 Move
13 Place for a run
18 Warner Bros. creation

- 19 Resort island off Naples
23 Word in a price
24 Whit
25 "The Terminator" woman
26 Yemeni's neighbor
27 E-mail need
28 Play ___ with (damage)
29 Belgian composer
30 Newspapers, with "the"

- 31 "Don't mince words!"
36 Oration
37 Henry Kissinger biographer
38 Canine cry
43 Thickness
44 Radio staff, for short
46 On/off ___
47 Tourist attractions
48 Prefix with spherical
49 Captivate
52 Defraud
53 It may be spun
54 Half of binary code
55 Disparagement
56 ___ good example
57 Oaf
58 Conjectural
60 Ethnic suffix
61 "So ___ me!"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

```

LESS ARTS CAVER
ALOT MEAT OLIVE
MALI PURE SONIA
BLONDEBOMBSHELL
TIRE LEA
BOW TENSPO T SRS
AVAST NCO ALIT
YELLOWSUBMARINE
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A Friend, Indeed



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Sometimes it takes visits from old friends to show you that who you thought you were, you actually are. The kinds of friends who were there for you — and with you — at the beginning. The kinds of friends who know where you came from and now, in person, and after years of multiple long distance phone calls, can see where you've gone. The kinds of friends whose opinions you respect, whose loyalty you admire and whose friendship you cherish. It's when these kinds of friends speak that you should listen. And listen I did in late June when my oldest, and best friend from High School (Newton South High School, Class of '76, Newton, Ma.), Cary and his wife, Mindy, flew into Reagan National for a two-day visit, our first face to face since February 2002, (2'02'02) the date of their youngest son, Jordon's, Bar Mitzvah, and the reason for our last trip to Boston/Needham.

Though Cary and I didn't attend any of the same schools before high school, soon after we met in 10th grade, we became instant friends. And over these last 35 years, our friendship has evolved and matured and sustained itself through our respective marriages and no divorces, deaths of family and friends, occasional disease (nothing too serious, though, thank God!), the birth of their three sons, the purchase of our first homes and many other highs and lows and successes and failures too numerous and typical to mention. Through it all, we've always been a phone call away. But due to Cary and Mindy's initiative this year (their "summer tour," as they called it), "a phone call away" was not going to suffice. And so airline reservations and hotel accommodations were made on a mutually convenient weekend for the Sneider's return trip to Washington, D.C., their first since the '90s, while attending what was then, a semi-annual Candy Show (Cary's in the candy business), held that year in the old Convention Center. And though I had been in Boston many times previously to visit (three High School reunions, two Boston Celtic basketball games, three Sneider Bar Mitzvahs), we had never just had a normal-type weekend without some kind of event dominating.

This visit, however, during the second to last weekend in June, was not dominated by anything. It was simply about two old friends, and their wives, hanging out; no agenda, no schedule, no timetable, no nothing — just time together. And believe me, it was time well spent. And though the weekend (Friday afternoon and evening) got off to a bumpy start with Cary experiencing some air travel-related nausea that had him indisposed through dinner, the rest of the weekend saw two friends reconnect, in person, and gave us an opportunity to tell our tales and walk our respective walks and find out if who we think we are is still someone with whom, after all these years and life's experiences, the other would find amusing, agreeable, acceptable and stimulating quite frankly, and we did (in my opinion, anyway; his too, he's just not in print to confirm it). In short, it was like old times, 35 years later, in the blink of an eye, and nothing had changed. Best friends then, best friends now. What a weekend!

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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